

INDIANA SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2014

Indiana Government Center - South

Conference Room 17

10:00 a.m.

302 W. Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Members present:**

Hill, John (IDHS) (Chairman)

Bowlen, Eric (Martinsville)

Carter, Doug (ISP)

Reske, Scott (DOE)

**Members absent:**

Allen, Mary (CJI)

Eslinger, Mike (Parke County)

Zoeller, Greg (ATG Office)

**Proxy:**

McDowell, Kevin (ATG Office)

Phillips, Justin (CJI)

**Members of the Public:**

No members of the public were present

**Staff:**

Cheek, Kaelea (IDHS)

Davis, Bridget (IDHS)

Deweese, Michael (IDHS)

Forkner, Justin (IDHS)

Karns, Allison (Gov. Office)

Mahan, Beth (IDHS)

Romero, Joe (IDHS)

Stewart, Kimberly (IDHS)

Walters, Pam (IDHS)

Whitham, Jonathan (IDHS)

Workman, James (LT. Gov. Office)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Hill who welcomed everyone. It was determined that there was a quorum. Members of the Board and staff introductions were made. No members of the public were present.

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the May 27, 2014 meeting:

**Move to accept the minutes from the May 27, 2014 meeting:**

Motion duly made and carried to adopt the minutes from May 27, 2014:

Proposed by: Scott Reske

Seconded by: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

- Joe Romero reported that at the last Board Meeting there were 13 deferred applicants for further review. IDHS provided the applicants with additional support to get the application to a quality position and meet the approval of the Board. IDHS staff approached those schools to get information and address the issues that the Board mentioned at the last Board meeting.
- Kimb Stewart reported that IDHS staff worked with members of the Tindley Schools staff. IDHS staff is convinced that Tindley has separate accounting and separate functions for each of the schools that they oversee even though all of the campuses are within a couple miles of each other. Tindley shares a School Safety Specialist with Indianapolis Public Schools according to DOE. School Safety Specialists can only be a specialist for one school corporation at a time. IDHS staff would like for Tindley to show evidence of completion of SRO training requirements up front before they are reimbursed for anything. If they are funded, IDHS staff would like for them to show that SROs are only working for one entity at a time and not being paid from two sources at the same time. Tindley requested \$35,000 for each school. \$17,500 is recommended for each school. The subcommittee generally did not feel that schools that were given longer to apply and fix their application deserved more funding because there were 26 schools that received partial funding in the first grant awards.
- Tindley Genesis did not open in the fall like they were scheduled, no funding is recommended for them. IDHS has an e-mail from Tindley Genesis withdrawing their application.
- Gary asked for \$25,000. Beth Mahan contacted their corporation many times and offered to help them with their application. IDHS staff sent them a very detailed letter explaining how to improve their application. A conference call was set up and Gary's representative, Marianne Fidishin missed the conference call. Also, their fiscal 2014 grant agreement has not been fully executed because they have not passed their DWD (unemployment insurance) clearance at this time. Because of the amount of time, offers of technical assistance, and the fact that the 2014 agreement has not been fully approved, it is not recommended that Gary be funded. If the Board decides to give them funding, no more than \$12,500 is recommended.
- Chairman Hill asked if there had been any contact with the General Assembly members in the Gary, Indiana area. Ms. Stewart will work with IDHS PIOs on this matter. If the Board wishes, a letter of consent could allow the subcommittee to administer the funds to the eligible applicants. Chairman Hill recommends taking this under advisement and

would like the IDHS legal team along with the help of the Attorney General's office to research the possibility of a letter of consent under the authority of this grant.

- Chairman Hill requested that IDHS staff reach out to legislative assistants such as Senator Rogers for awareness of the grant situation. Kevin McDowell suggested that Gary schools may be a part of the Educational Service Center, which could manage this grant on their behalf.

**Deferred Decisions:**

- Seymour School Corporation's budget did not match their proposal. IDHS staff contacted them, the budget was corrected and it is recommended to fully fund their proposal.
- Union Township would increase their SRO from part time to full time with the subcommittee's recommended funding.
- West Washington's proposal asks for a generator. It is recommended to award them \$12,500 and have them work with the IDHS staff to find something that is fundable.

**Not a Deferred Decision:**

- Tipton Community Schools would like to increase their surveillance which is a better match for the grant. The subcommittee recommends allowing them to make that change and fund their proposal.
  - Chairman Hill would like for the recommendation board to advise Senator Miller and others who will be working with this grant in the General Assembly of the charter school issues.
2. Motion was made for the Board to accept the recommendation for Monroe Central, Northeastern Wayne, Seymour Community, Union Township, Warsaw Community, West Washington School Corporation and Tipton Community School Corporation and accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board for approval.

Proposed by: Doug Carter

Seconded by: Kevin McDowell

Discussion: When West Washington determines what grant fundable purchase they would like to make, they will create a GAN in the iGMS funding system to be approved by Chairman Hill.

Vote: carried

3. Motion was made to approve the Tindley recommendation.

Proposed by: Kevin McDowell

Seconded by: Eric Bowlen

Discussion: Tindley has budgeted for SROs. There will be controls put in place to verify that the money is being used for the purpose of SROs.

Abstained: Doug Carter

Vote: carried

4. Motion was made to defer Gary's proposal to the next meeting until irregularities can be corrected. Options would be looked at to help this district with this grant.

Proposed by: Kevin McDowell

Seconded by: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

- When a school is denied a grant, they have an appeal mechanism:
5. Motion to authorize Justin Forkner to serve as administrative law judge for the Secured School Safety Board, including, without limitation, the authority to:

**Move to authorize Justin Forkner to:**

**1. Assume all pending and new administrative cases under Indiana code 4-21.5-3 that come before the Board. Ultimate authority rests with the Board.**

Proposed by: Doug Carter

Seconded by: Scott Reske

Vote: carried

- Mr. Romero stated that on August 13, 2014, IDHS staff reported to the State Budget Committee at IPFW about the amount of grant funding that was provided, the amount of applications that were received and what the grant funding was used for: SROs verses access controls, etc. One question the committee had was about the amount of money that was used for administrative purposes. The bulk of money used for administrative purposes was for the purchase of software to support the access control system and was subsequently moved to the equipment category. Another question the committee had was about the level of coordination that IDHS is facilitating with management agencies and local public safety agencies. IDHS coordinators have been tied in and working with local emergency managers to make sure they are aware of these programs and what funding is coming into the communities and how the money is being spent as well as urging them to coordinate with the schools on public safety. Schools could host active shooter exercises. Schools could ask for preparedness initiatives. There is a broader benefit to this grant than funding for security. It is changing the mindset of school's administrators to think in broader terms of school safety and security and take an All-Hazards approach to planning. Representative Morrison expressed concern at the last General Assembly about the amendment that would have required every school corporation to have a complete emergency plan developed and enacted such as an All-Hazards approach, making sure that each school district focused on a plan in their area. The first year of funding has had a significant impact and has enhanced the security by 77% of the students in public schools.

**6. Motion to adjourn:**

**Move to adjourn:**

Proposed by: Doug Carter

Seconded by: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting Time and Location:**

TBD